Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 106256 ORIGIN IO-03

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CONFIDENTIAL STATE 106256

FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S PARTY

FOLLOWING REPEAT LOME 1195 ACTION USUN INFO SECSTATE DTD 06 MAY

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CONFIDENTIAL LOME 1195

FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, SF, SHUM, EFIN, TO

SUBJECT: TOGOLESE FOREIGN MINISTER REQUESTS MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR $\,$

YOUNG DURING MAY 16-21 MAPUTO MEETING ON ZIMBABWE

1. FOREIGN MINISTER EDEM KODJO PLANS TO ATTEND MAPUTO MEETING ON SOUTHERN AFRICA TO BE SPONSORED BY OAU AND UN MAY 16-21. HE UNDERSTANDS YOU WILL ATTEND MEETING AND HAS ASKED ME TO CONTACT YOU REGARDING POSSIBLITY OF HAVING AN INFORMAL CONVERSATION THERE.

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2. COMMENT: KODJO IS TALL, SLEEK, 38-YEAR OLD, INFLUENTIAL ADVISER OF PRESIDENT EYADEMA. HE IS AN EXPERIENCED POLITICIAN HAVING ORGANIZED FOR PRESIDENT EYADEMA TOGO'S SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY THE RASSEMBLEMENT DU PEOPLE TOGOLAIS. BEFORE BECOMING FOREIGN MINISTER, HE WAS FINANCE MINISTER (1973-76). HE IS HIGHLY REGARDED BY FRENCH AND IS REPORTEDLY ON EASY TERMS WITH

GISCARD. AS A GRADUATE OF ELITE FRENCE ECOLE NORMAL D'ADMINISTRATION, HE HAS CONSIDERABLE PRESTIGE AMONG HIS FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN COLLEAGUES. HE WAS PRO-TEM CHAIRMAN OF MARCH OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING IN LOME AND REPRESENTED PRESIDENT EYADEMA AT CAIRO AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT. HE IS TOUGH AND CLEVER AND INTERESTED IN IMPROVING US-TOGOLESE AND US-AFRICAN RELATIONS. HE IS INTRIGUED BY EVOLVING US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY. HIS ENGLISH IS ADEQUATE BUT RUSTY. A RELAXED TALK WITH HIM MIGHT PROVIDE INTERESTING INSIGHTS AND WOULD INSURE TRANSMISSION OF ADMINISTRATION VIEWS TO AN INFLUENTIAL AUDIENCE. (ECOWAS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING SCHEDULED IN LOME IN LATE JUNE.) RECOMMEND YOU MEET WITH HIM, IF POSSIBLE. PALMER UNQTE—CHRISTOPHER

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Subject: TOGOLESE FOREIGN MINISTER REQUESTS MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG DURING MAY 16-21 MAPUTO MEETING ON

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, EFIN, SF, TO, OAU, (KODJO, EDEM)

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